

Appl. No. 09/663,594  
Amendment and/or Response  
Reply to Office action of 8 November 2005

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~As shown in patent claim 2, each~~ Each network node in the network is assigned a certain periodically recurrent time section for the transmission of its messages. The pilot signal generator in a network node signalizes this time section when a pilot signal is transmitted. The pilot signal may be distinguished from the actual message in various ways. For example, the pilot signal uses a different frequency range from the signal having the message to be transmitted.

~~Patent claim 3 indicates that each~~ Each star interface contains a first and a second switch element and a pilot signal detector. The switch elements, which, as described in claim 3, may be a switchable amplifier, control the flow of messages in a star interface in dependence on the pilot signal.

During the transmission of messages, which is indicated by the pilot signal, a star interface generates a release signal which is applied to the other star interfaces via an OR combination, as described in claim 5. ~~Claim 6 indicates that the~~ The OR combination may be arranged as an OR gate or as a wired OR combination.